

REMARKS

Applicants have received and reviewed the Office Action mailed May 5, 2004. In response, Applicants have amended claims 19 and 20 in a manner that does not affect the claim scope, but rather, improves the readability of the claim language and ensures clear antecedent basis. Claims 19 - 35 are pending.

Claims 19 - 22 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Applicants do not necessarily agree with the position of the Examiner with respect to this issue. Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, prevent erosion of the patent term, and avoid administrative burden of appeal, Applicants have submitted a Terminal Disclaimer for U.S. Patent No. 6,610,126. It is noted that because the '126 patent and a patent issuing from this application are in the same family under 35 U.S.C. § 120, the terms of these patents will end on the same date anyway.


Applicants reviewed the statement of reasons for indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants do not necessarily agree with the statements made by the Examiner. There are many reasons for allowability of these claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application should be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, reexamination, and a Notice of Allowance.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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